

**PSC DELAYS NEW AREA CODE IMPLEMENTATION AGAIN.....**  
**ORDERS STATE POOLING TRIAL**

Jefferson City (September 25, 2001)---Telephone number conservation measures previously ordered by the Missouri Public Service Commission continue to have a positive impact and consumers continue to benefit as the Commission has **delayed indefinitely** the implementation of two new area codes.

The Missouri Public Service Commission has determined that implementation of permissive and mandatory dialing for new area codes in the current 314 area code in eastern Missouri as well as the current 816 area code in western Missouri **should be delayed indefinitely**.

“Because of various measures taken by the Missouri Public Service Commission we were able to, in April of this year, extend the implementation dates for overlay relief in the current 314 and 816 area codes,” stated Commission Chairman Kelvin Simmons. **“We are pleased to now announce that area code relief will again be delayed for the 557 and 975 overlays.** In addition, we have asked the parties to monitor code utilization and relief requirements and inform the Commission when circumstances warrant scheduling implementation of relief overlay plans. Until that occurs, these two new area codes are on hold,” stated Simmons.

In the Commission’s April order delaying implementation of the new area codes, permissive dialing for the 557 overlay in eastern Missouri was extended until at least January 1, 2002 with mandatory dialing starting on May 5, 2002. Permissive dialing for the 975 overlay in western Missouri was extended until at least May 5, 2002 with mandatory dialing extended until at least September 8, 2002.

**BACKGROUND:** On October 24, 2000, the Commission issued an order implementing numbering resource conservation and management strategies, including rate center consolidations in the 816 area code and reclaiming un-used numbers throughout the state. In that order, the Commission stated that if numbering resources were used more efficiently the life of NPA codes (area codes) could be greatly extended and the expense and burden of NPA relief delayed or avoided.

**STATE POOLING TRIALS:** The Commission has also ordered state pooling trials in the 314 and 816 area codes. Under a state pooling trial, telephone numbers will be distributed in blocks of 1,000 instead of the current industry standard of 10,000 numbers. The Commission noted in its

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order: “By implementing state pooling trials, Missouri can extend the lives of the 314 NPA and 816 NPA and delay considerable expenses and burdens to both consumers and the industry of implementing the overlay relief plans.”

Under the Commission’s order, 1000s block number pooling in the 314 area code will be implemented according to the timelines developed at the implementation meeting with a mandated start day of January 2, 2002. The mandated start day for the 816 area code is February 1, 2002.

**BACKGROUND:** Under current procedures authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), telephone numbers are distributed in blocks of 10,000. That means that every new telephone company, wireless or cell-phone company, paging company or internet provider has these blocks of numbers assigned to them before they begin operation. There are 792 blocks of 10,000 numbers, for a total of 7,920,000 numbers available for assignment in each area code. Since many of the companies which request blocks of numbers may not need 10,000 numbers for many years to come, the FCC has been looking at ways to distribute numbers in a more efficient manner. A national rollout issuing numbers in blocks of 1,000 is expected in the near future.